major penalty specified in the said rules. Rule 30-A is a special procedure for certain categories of cases. IDPL has reported that Rule 30-A was applied in cases of unauthorised absence for more than 30 days and continued dis-obedience and defiance of the orders of the management. The expert legal advice obtained by IDPL indicates that the said rule is legally valid. The said rule can be invoked in specified circumstances and it provides for an opportunity to an employee to explain his conduct. The decision is taken at the highest level in the undertaking after scrutiny of each case by a Screening Committee and for reasons to be recorded in writing. Therefore, no separate provision of Appeal against an order passed under Rule-30A has been made. However, the general over-riding powers of review under Rule 33 are also applicable to orders passed under Rule 30-A. The review can be *suo-moto* or on a petition by the aggrieved person.

Prices of Edible Oils

1149. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of price fixed for the edible oils for 1992-93 ;

(b) the extent to which it is remunerative to the farmers ; and

(c) the scheme of Government for the procurement of edible oils during 1992 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Under the existing policy of the Government there is no price and distribution control over edible oils. The prices of edible oils are determined by market forces.

(b) The ruling market prices per quintal of major oilseeds such as groundnut are Rs. 800 to Rs. 1000 and mustard Rs. 900 to Rs. 930 as against the minimum support prices for groundnut of Rs. 580 (1990-91) and of mustard at Rs. 670 (1991-92) per quintal.

(c) Government has no plans to procure any edible oil during 1992.

Separate Consumer Courts in the States

1150. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to have separate Consumer Courts in the States ;

(b) if so, when Government propose to inaugurate such Consumer Courts in the States ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to consider this proposal in future so that the regular District Judges will be relieved of additional burden of work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Government has enacted the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which provides for three tier redressal agencies at national, state and district level to redress the grievances of consumers.

(b) As per information available with the Central Government, 28 State Commissions and 360 District Forums are already functioning.

(c) Supreme Court has directed the State Governments to relieve the regular District Judges of the additional burden of work where the work load is above 150 complaints per month. State Governments have been asked to comply with the directions.

1151. [*Transferred to the 8th May*, 1992]

Increase in the Prices of Essential Commodities

1152. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state : (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of a number of essential commodities have been increased by 25 to 75 per cent during the last one year ;